



☐ Executive Committee ☒ District Leadership Council ☐ Annual Meeting

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Meeting Minutes**

ORDER OF BUSINESS	01/05/2018	10:00 AM	Rothschild WI.
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Larry Bonde at 10 AM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Joe Weiss, Rick Olson, Joel Taylor, Dave Larson, Mike Riggle, Steve Budnick, Bob Ellingson, Ronald Krueger Senior, Kevin Smaby, Al Suchla, Al Lobner, Dale Maas, Robert Haase, Brett Weir, Larry Bonde, Dave Breuing, Mike Rogers, Kenneth Risley, Al Shook, Scott Gunderson, Kari Lee Zimmerman, and Mike Schmit. On day two (1/6/18) the attendance was the same with the exception of Al Suchla being excused.
EXCUSED	Stan Brownell and Jane Meyer.
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	As stated.

C. Agenda approval or Repair

Bonde

DISCUSSION	Chairman Bonde requested flexibility in the agenda for the DNR secretary's report and also those testifying on advisory questions to allow them to move to the head of the list.
ACTION	Motion by Smaby second by Larson to approve the request. Motion carried.

D. Chair's update

Bonde

DISCUSSION	Larry started by thanking members of the executive committee for their attendance and testimony given at hearings in Madison. Vice Chairman Shook, Secretary Maas and many other delegates attended numerous hearings representing the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Most recently the wetland bill and its associated hearings brought the sporting community out in force. Support for our position and that of many other conservation organizations was needed so that the legislators truly understand the importance of this issue and we need to get it done. On another issue some committees have decided to use conference calls to communicate with resolution authors. We cannot and should not do this due to the lack of availability to do this consistently at all committee meetings. Larry also reported on the Natural Resources Board meeting, he brought up the white deer issue. The board does not want to deal with this issue or any issues that they already have taken a position on in the last few years. Another concern is the many environmental issues being brought to us at the spring meetings. The environmental issues are important and may need to find another way to address these problems. Part of the reason is at the spring hearings there are no members from the department in attendance to give guidance.
ACTION	Information only no action taken.

E. DNR Liaison's report

Zimmerman

DISCUSSION	Kari reminded everyone that the district meetings coming up in March and that she needs to publish those dates for all 11 districts including date, time and location. Please get that information to her by January 18. Also anyone interested in submitting articles for the Congress news letter should let her know of their intentions as she will be putting that together in the next couple of weeks. 2018 will be the last year for the Congress to use the voting machines to tally answers at the spring hearing. Company will no longer support the update of the equipment we will have to look at different ways provide service.
ACTION	Information only no action taken.

F. Public comments

DISCUSSION	Lauri Groskopf from Tomahawk, Wisconsin addressed the Council and provided a two-page handout with her presentation. Her concern is with the lack of the federal government allowing Wisconsin control Wolf management. There are two bills that were recently introduced in the Wisconsin legislature AB 712 and SB 602, this legislation if passed would prevent Wisconsin DNR staff from conducting federally mandated activities related to Wolf management. Wisconsin currently has no management authority regarding wolves. This has been for many years as the federal government and authority over all management while wolves are on the endangered species list. Other states have insisted on having state population control before the state paid for management. The DNR staff agrees we
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	are not currently managing wolves. There is much bipartisan support for state management of wolves. Essentially, Wisconsin has been providing services to the federal government carry out their mandated rules. It is well past time for Wisconsin to stop paying for these federal mandates. In closing she asked for the Congress is support for AB 712 and SB 602.
ACTION	Information only no action taken at this time issue on the agenda when the Wolf Committee gives its report tomorrow.

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. District meeting input on logistics for future annual meetings

Bonde

DISCUSSION	<p>Larry stated that we have reviewed this process many times but given the input and the discussion at the last convention he had asked all of the leadership Council to pose the question at their last district meeting. Are we to continue starting Thursday night with the leadership Council meeting starting the convention on Friday morning and concluding at end of business on Saturday? What things should be changed and why should we change it is a question at hand.</p> <p>Ron Krueger stated that when you agreed to be elected as a delegate to the Congress that part of your responsibility is to attend the scheduled meetings, the state convention is laid out already year in advance and any delegates accepting a position need to accept the need for the meetings as posted. He feels when talking to his district delegates that the current Friday, Saturday schedule is appropriate.</p> <p>Riggle is not as concerned with the timing of the convention but suggested that we might be able to save some time by using consent agenda. Rather than reading off each resolution stating statewide voting position when a question as past by an overwhelming majority we may be able to move these actions as a group by using this technique. Certainly if there was any delegate that wanted to question a particular action that could be done, but the majority of them are just restating the statewide vote.</p> <p>Dale Maas stated that while he appreciated all the updates and reports from department staff and we as a council are privileged with getting these reports on a regular basis it seems somewhat redundant to have the same report given at both the convention and the leadership Council meeting just prior to the convention. He feels that it's important for all the delegates to get departmental updates at the state convention. In order to maximize Congress productivity at the convention he asked that some consideration be made to handling resolutions and important discussion matters on day one of the convention and possibly moving department reports to day two. It might also be beneficial to devise a way that delegates can receive the full report with staff available to answer questions.</p> <p>Kevin Smaby stated at their district meeting there was a concern for the drop off of attendance from Friday to Saturday one of the suggestions that he was asked to bring forward was breaking up the long day on Friday with a few breakout sessions. Kevin said the single issue though was the dramatic drop in attendance from Friday he stated that by 930 10 o'clock on Saturday you might as well call the meeting due to the lack of attendance.</p> <p>Larry stated that it's up to us as district leadership hold the delegates feet to the fire on attendance. There always will be an occasional need for somebody to leave but that should be the exception and not the norm. Larry also stated that in the past we had tried a number of breakout sessions, presenters put a lot of work into it and nobody attended.</p> <p>Larry stated that what he heard was consensus that everybody wanted to stay with the traditional Friday, Saturday format that he also heard they wanted to do some tweaking within the process to try to streamline it. He encouraged the leadership to get a hold of their delegates and encourage them that they have to be there on Saturday as well as Friday.</p> <p>Dale restated his position that maybe we should consider having the reports on day two no disrespect but everybody's attention span would be better on the first day, let's handle the meat potato items then. He also stated that those that are interested in hearing particular issues on wildlife fisheries forestry whatever it may be will stick around to hear that and ask questions and if we lose some people it's a hard decision to come to but let's make the most of our time together.</p>	
ACTION	Informational guidance only no action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. Department of Natural Resources Program Updates

Varius

DISCUSSION	See Below	
ACTION	As stated	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

1. Fisheries

Justine Hasz

DISCUSSION	<p>Justine gave a brief review of the progress that was made on filling vacant positions with fisheries during the period from October through December, 15 full-time positions were filled. She stated that they are still recruiting for a number of positions and have added one more position to their list with 1 stated retirement of a fish biologist supervisor coming up in the next month. She also mentioned that in 2018 the fisheries department will be working on a number of long-term plans they are as follows:</p> <p>Trout management plan.</p> <p>Lake Sturgeon plan for Lake Superior.</p>
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	An overall fisheries Lake management plan for Lake Superior. Northern Pike management plan that was just started. She also thanked Conservation Congress leadership and delegates for all the work that they do throughout the year in assisting and offering input on the many fisheries projects and meetings that they attend.	
ACTION	Informational only no action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

2. Wildlife

Eric Lobner

DISCUSSION	<p>Eric gave a report on the total numbers associated with the 2017 deer season. The total number of licenses sold for 2017 was 821,876, this included archery, crossbow and gun licenses. It was also noted that on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of deer gun season the call center handled 9339 calls and that 94% of the calls were answered within 60 seconds. The 2017 new licensing methods eliminated requirement to validate carcass tag, attachment of the tag and new methods to display proof of license including a mobile device. There were 195,738 total deer registered during the nine-day gun season it was also noted that Wisconsin hosts out-of-state hunters all US states including Alaska and Hawaii 64 foreign countries and US territories. There were 14,955 gun license used in mentored hunts and 3015 archery and cross bow mentored hunts. It is also important to recognize the part that social media plays during our hunting season and the tremendous spike in You-tube views that were registered. Totals by zone for the nine-day hunt showed the northern forest up 12.7% in antlered harvest and up 70% antlerless harvest. It should also be noted that the central forest zone central farmland zone in the southern farm lands all showed a reduced harvest both antlered and antlerless harvest.</p> <p>CWD surveillance and sampling is covered by 115 in person sampling stations statewide of which 67 public and 48 private. Undersell sampling which was a pilot test kit 100 participants was used in the state wide projection of 8000 samples to be taken, the data is not in on that, have to be discussed at a later date.</p> <p>Under the food pantry program there were 94 processors participating in 52 counties of which 1330 deer were donated which exceeded the 2015 and 2016 numbers in that category. About 53,200 pounds of venison was donated to local food pantries.</p> <p>Eric also talked about the departments strategic realignment plan, in budget years 2016-17 (5.5) positions were cut along with an additional two in corresponding years. The re-alignment effort resulted in 10.5 positions transferred out of the program. This resulted in \$492,000 transferring out of the program also. The department did receive two positions from parks and total net loss of 16 positions over the last four years in total change.</p> <p>Wildlife management staff will no longer be responsible for recreation base property management (parking lots, boundary posting, etc.)</p> <p>-3.5 positions to park and rec management</p> <p>forestry will be assuming the lead role in prescribed burning.</p> <p>-6 positions to forestry for prescribed fire</p> <p>Hunter recruitment and retention will be led by law enforcement. -1 position to law enforcement for R3</p> <p>The vision is focusing on the department's strengths.</p> <p>Renewed focus on understanding wildlife population trends.</p> <p>Expanded impact on wildlife populations and recreational opportunities through habitat management and on broader range of properties.</p> <p>Core Work</p> <p>Wildlife population monitoring, health and management. Wildlife habitat planning and management, private land guidance.</p> <p>Wildlife education, communication, and outreach.</p> <p>Hunting and trapping stakeholder involvement and season development.</p> <p>The wildlife team will continue to review and analyze staffing guidelines and our core needs in order to better serve the citizens of the state.</p> <p>Scott Loomans fisheries program and policy analyst gave his report on fishery management's 2018 spring meeting agenda of advisory questions.</p> <p>At the January meeting of the Natural Resources board he will request approval to hold public meetings on the attached agenda of advisory questions. The results of voting on these questions will be used by the department in development of future policies and rule proposals.</p> <p>The department will hold hearings on a spring hearing rules package again in 2019 and subsequent odd-numbered years. In 2019 the topics of voting will include Conservation Congress spring hearing advisory questions which were supported in 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>The department proposes the following:</p> <p>Question 1. Establish alternate size and bag limits for permitted, catch and release, bass fishing tournaments.</p> <p>Question 2. Review panfish regulations on the Mississippi River.</p> <p>Question 3. Establish a 60 inch minimum size for Lake Sturgeon on Lake Superior.</p> <p>Question 4. Review game fish size and bag limit regulations on the Mississippi River.</p> <p>Questions 5. And 6: Walleye regulations on Koshkonong Lake in Jefferson/Rock Counties.</p> <p>Question 7. For walleyes on Lake Winnebago, reduced the walleye bag limit from 5 to 3.</p>
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	Question 8. Reduce mortality of Flathead catfish by expanding the prohibition on the use of whole/live fish for bait, on set lines or bank poles, to include the upper Fox in the Wolf rivers.	
ACTION	Information only no action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

3. Forestry

Heather Berklund

DISCUSSION	<p>Heather began by saying at the last DLC meeting one of her colleagues explained staffing changes to the strategic alignment plan and for this presentation she was going to highlight some of the forestry department programming accomplishments.</p> <p>They are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They hit their targets in GNA, County Forests, State Forest, MFL Administration and Fire Control in spite of having a 30% vacancy rate for much of the year. 2. They received national recognition from the United States Forest Service Exceeding their sustainable allowable harvest on Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forest. 3. Praise by third-party certification auditors on our efforts to manage State, County, and Private Tax Law lands sustainability. 4. Fire Operations: mobilized 89 employees on 114 out of state assignments(Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact agreement); 9 states, 2 provinces (Ontario & British Columbia), Puerto Rico WI: 670 fires, 606 acres (19 fires 5+ acres) Great partnership with Fire Departments 5. Good Neighbor Authority GNA authorizes the state to implement forestry practices on the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). 24 timber sales were sold in calendar year 2017. The total volume sold was 52,054 cord equivalents on 3,914 acres. Successful due to partnership with CNNF and contracting with consulting foresters and 6 County Forests. 6. Assisted Communities; Responded to blow-down event in Stevens Point. Cleared trees from trails and roads around the city. Assisted with Barron County Tornado First time ever mobilizing the All-Hazard State IMT to Texas for Hurricane Harvey Budget funding to improve and enhance communication network for firefighters and emergency services 7. On October 25, 2017: Gov. Walker announced that the Forestry Headquarters was moving to the Rhinelander Service Center. The first phase of implementation is underway with office space being set up for: Chief State Forester, Fred Souba, Forestry Field Operations Deputy Administrator, Heather Berklund, Forestry Field Operations Bureau Director, Trent Marty and Applied Forestry Bureau Director, Carmen Hardin. 8. Reorganized and established the tax law section, this enabled 47 FTE positions to be established through a competitive process. Also part of this tax law administration was the creation of the Wisconsin Private Forestry Advisory Committee. This committee will provide tax law and private forestry policies along with guidance. 9. Forest Health staff completed and E-learning system on Forestry Invasive Species Best Management Practices that was funded by the United States Forest Service. We also partnered with GLTPA to host the E-learning system on their server, and GLTPA hopes to use the system in the near future to supplement FISTA. We distributed \$166,000 in grants to internal and external partners to combat invasive plants, insects and diseases. We were pro-active with DATCAP On Emerald Ash Borer quarantine efforts. 10. 11. Outreach: the Division of Forestry is focusing on making better use of the DNR's social media tools to tell the awesome stories of the sustainable forestry work they are involved with. We have also added a new Private Forestry Outreach Specialist. Private forestry outreach specialist. <p>In 2018 we will be moving forward as we continue to implement our Strategic Alignment, transfer Law Enforcement and Parks role on State Forest. We will continue planning and prioritization of prescribed burns on state property. We will continue our staff hiring planning, since October 30 four primary Forester's, Forester technicians and FR tax law positions have been added, we have 56 true vacancies at the moment within forestry although this is always a moving target as of late. We will also continue in establishing a well functioning headquarters for the division in Rhinelander along with incorporating Wisconsin Forest practices study recommendation into guidance/handbooks. We will be working on a legislative physical audit and continue partnership collaboration, training and education with all of our partners. I hope this gives you a little background on the forestry division and as you can see forestry is a valuable and important industry in Wisconsin. Thank you for your time and attention</p>	
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

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4. Law Enforcement

Todd Schaller

DISCUSSION	<p>Todd reported that during the 2017 deer gun season there were seven accidents involving firearms of those seven accidents none were fatal.</p> <p>He then gave an update on staffing since his last report 12 additional warden recruits were hired, are currently in various stages of training. He also stated that the latest class a warden recruits had 12 graduates and they are placed in their new positions at this time. Law enforcement is allowed a staff level of 227 credentialed law enforcement officers and currently 197 are now serving. Nine positions were filled with former Park Rangers and 2018 will see 17 in training for placement in late 2018, possibly January 2019.</p> <p>In 2017 the tip call center received over 6100 tips of which all were assigned to various warden staff for investigation. We have received additional staffing report, there are three process and are in the process of hiring a supervisor for that division.</p> <p>Regional safety officers which work with many safety instructors in certifying and conducting water, trapping, snowmobile and hunter safety programs is in the process of review. In retooling this process our intent is to hire five non-credentialed safety personnel and nine credentialed regional safety officers. The reason being some of the process does not require a credentialed officer.</p> <p>Todd also mentioned his appreciation Wisconsin Conservation Congress leadership and delegates for the support and understanding that they give wardens. Congress delegates pour their hearts and souls and protecting our resources for now and future generations and for that I thank you.</p>	
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

5. Office of Applied Science

Scott Hull

DISCUSSION	<p>Scott Dir. of the office of applied science gave the following report:</p> <p>Southwest Wisconsin CWD, Deer and Predator Study; this study comprehensively examines factors that could influence deer population change in Southwestern Wisconsin. These include chronic wasting disease, predation, habitat suitability and under harvest. Time line has a schedule launch January 2017 and eight completion date targeted for December 2021. His department will partner with wildlife management, deer hunters, private landowners, Conservation Congress, CDAC's and the general public. Funding for this study will be provided by Pittman-Robertson funds and Safari Club International.</p> <p>Understanding relationships between forests and deer health through the map partnerships; the main goal of this project is to improve our understanding of the linkages between habitat quality, deer health, and population performance. The time line for this project was already launched in November 2016 and has a scheduled completion date of June 2019. His department will partner with wildlife management and forestry, deer hunters, private landowners, conservation Congress, CDAC's and the general public. Funding for this study will be provided by Pittman-Robertson funds.</p> <p>Muskellunge age and gross study; muskellunge age and growth are difficult to determine without harvesting fish, yet this information is important for managing muskellunge and evaluating stocking practices. The study has been ongoing with the launch of July 2009 and an estimated completion date of June 2019. His department will partner with fisheries management, muskellunge fishing guides and anglers of Northern Wisconsin. Funding for this study is provided by Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration grants.</p> <p>Wisconsin fish-based lakes classification study; this comprehensive study developed a Lake classification system for Wisconsin-based fish populations and immunological traits. It is similar to but more rigorous than those classifications developed for Michigan. This interactive classification tool will enable managers to better understand the abundance and growth potential of fish in Wisconsin's 6000+ management lakes. It will also provide realistic outcomes for species-specific fisheries management. This ongoing study is a time line start July 2014 and a targeted completion date of 2018. His department will partner with DNR fisheries management, anglers and fishing guides in Wisconsin. Funding for this project will come from Federal Aid in Sports Fish Restoration.</p> <p>As you can see there are many studies that the office of Applied Science is involved in, it is his responsibility to provide science-based opinions on various departments as they make key decisions on the resources of our state.</p>	
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

6. Parks and Recreation

Ben Bergey

DISCUSSION	Ben gave an overview of the parks and recreation department for 2017. He stated that the use of state parks continues to be on the rise and with the restructuring of state parks staff required him to add 34 new hires within the state.
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	<p>While many of the parks throughout our state have a consistent number of users some of our more developed state parks are experiencing additional crowding that according to surveys and Park personnel's discussion are not making for a favorable user experience.</p> <p>One of the new authorizations given his department by the Natural Resources Board is the permission to increase pricing structure for the 2017-2019 budget. DNR secretary Meyer authorized a flex pricing structure where Park user fees are adjusted according to volume and participation. Pricing structure will allow increase to be reinvested in the state parks system infrastructure based on the demand placed on that facility. Goal in this exercise is as follows:</p> <p>Maximize property use.</p> <p>Manage capacity.</p> <p>Maintain/enhance the user experience.</p> <p>This exercise includes an annual review of the pricing structure to be conducted in the end of 2018.</p> <p>Improve campground occupancy rate.</p> <p>Seasonal ability.</p> <p>Taking into consideration weekdays versus weekends.</p> <p>Taking in consideration of electric sites versus non electric sites.</p> <p>Key triggers will be an occupancy rate over 80% which would allow for the price to go up the reduction Trigger would be an occupancy rate of 30% which would drop the price.</p> <p>To try to eliminate some of the confusion on the high use variable fee structure in some of the state parks. His department will utilize social media and call lines to help users understand the process. 70 properties will have no change in their admission fee but those high use parks that will have a variable fee structure hopefully have a favorable user experience.</p>	
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. DNR Secretary's Remarks

Dan Meyer

DISCUSSION	<p>Secretary Meyer addressed the District Leadership Council thanking them and staff members that help get the word out on the many changes in the 2017 deer season. This was done in a very short time and for that he wants to thank the staff and the Congress for helping in getting this information out to the public. He stated that people from all 50 states, two territories and two foreign countries went deer hunting in Wisconsin. There were many new hunters and a diversity of returning hunters not only adding additional females but also people that previously for whatever reason had stopped hunting. He was happy to announce that there were no fatalities during the deer gun season, there were a few accidents but no fatalities attributed to gunshot.</p> <p>CWD continues to be an issue, this year was even more difficult due to a shortage of test kits. He has instructed staff to aggressively work on making sure that for next year test kits are available without delay for shortfalls.</p> <p>This February the department will submit its implementation plan to the Natural Resources board. With the help of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, the map committee and CWD committee he feels the department has been more receptive outside stakeholders especially so in the last five years.</p> <p>He stated that he hears the complaints that we as a department have eliminated science base decision-making, this is not the case. We have renamed the science department to the Office of Applied Science, while it is true that some staff were shuffled around we are still making and having input on the same issues that we've dealt with for years.</p> <p>Another positive that he wanted to share was that of the reinvigorated pheasant program based in Poynette. The new equipment has helped improve the reliability and production of the pheasant program now and in the future these improvements show the agency's commitment to the pheasant hunting community. Late in the season staff had received a request for additional birds to be planted, after some discussion than a little bit of hustle, 700 additional roosters were planted before the Christmas holidays offering additional holiday hunting opportunities for the many pheasant hunters in the state.</p> <p>Being secretary of this agency is an honor and I think that there is a very different change in the mindset on how we accomplish some of our goals. There is no simple answer other than to tell you that we need to prioritize any and all projects and requests that come to us and work with not only the staffing but the finances that we have and perform to the best of our ability.</p> <p>Once again I want to echo some of the words the department staff have mentioned during some of their reports and that is to simply say thank you to Wisconsin Conservation Congress its officers and delegates for all the untold hours that you devote because you care about the resources of this fine state and again I thank you.</p>	
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

D. WCC advisory committee reports and proposed advisory questions

Various

DISCUSSION	<p>Following resolutions were taken prior to committee report order to allow the authors to take part in the discussion on their resolutions in a timely manner.</p> <p>Environmental Committee:</p> <p>010217, 120517, 180117, 390217, 630417, 700417, 720517 High capacity well cumulative impact the author was in attendance in support of their resolution. Motion by Shook second by Gunderson to reject. Motion carried resolution rejected. Reason:</p>	
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	<p>there was question on the impacts of what? Public trust waters? Waters of the state? It is also noted that the DNR issues high capacity well approvals, not permits. It is also noted that this is not well defined as to what specific water resources (530117). Ban the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on state owned agriculture and forest land. The author was present and explained her intent of the resolution. Motion by Weiss second by Krueger to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>(120417, 150317, 230217, 250317, 250517, 310217, 420517, 570617, 560317, 720727). Designate all karstic Wisconsin as sensitive areas. Two of the authors were present and explained their intent of the resolution. Motion by Weiss second by Smaby to advance. Motion carried. One Nay (Shook).</p> <p>(100217). Test the water quality of all streams and lakes of Wisconsin. The author was in attendance explaining his position on the resolution. Motion by Riggle second by Taylor to reject. Motion carried resolution rejected. Reason: it was felt that this was to open ended of a test and what do you do with the results. WAV project is in place and there's no dollar fee for the cost of the program.</p> <p>(440317). Establish a hunting and fishing lead contamination fund. The author was there in support of the resolution. Motion by Maas second by Haase to reject. Motion carried resolution rejected. Reason: there is no funding source for this plus there is no ceiling on the amount of money set aside along with no definition of what is considered a threshold level of lead.</p> <p>(010 117, 120117, 230117, 250217, 390317, 420617, 530217, 540117, 560217, 570717, 630817, 720817). Conduct hydrogeological surveys in counties lacking them. Two of the authors were in attendance to support their resolution they stated that they wanted advocacy in the system safe water is everybody's rate. Olson was in support saying that the Congress has it in its stated goals and he has concern. Motion by Haase second by Larson to advance. Motion carried. Note: author's intent is to have surveys done in counties that have not had a survey completed, this was agreed to is a friendly amendment.</p> <p>(540317). Penalties for tilling land within 5 feet of channel or surface water. The author was in attendance in support of this resolution his intention is to put a penalty in the existing law. Motion by Risley second by Smaby to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>Legislative Committee:</p> <p>(710517). Increase penalties for dogs at large. The author was in attendance in support of his resolution stating that this continues to be a problem on his property and throughout the state. Motion by Olson second by Taylor to advance. Motion failed resolution rejected. Reason in 2014 the same resolution was passed the Congress already has a position.</p> <p>(10017). Restore reliance on sound science in DNR policy. Three authors were in attendance to support their resolution. Motion by Maas second by Weiss to reject. Motion carried resolution rejected. Reason: have support on record from previous years.</p> <p>(480117). Allow County deer advisory councils to make decisions on deer baiting and feeding. Author was in attendance of support of his resolution. Motion by Smaby second by Shukla to advance. Motion failed resolution rejected. Reason committee co-chairs recommend the withdrawal of the resolution CDAC's do not have the authority to make this happen.</p> <p>(150117, 050617). Wisconsin guide license requirements. Both authors were in attendance in support of their resolutions, after discussion the legislative committee chairman withdrew question 42. The authors concern is the need to provide documented safety for clients including insurance. Motion by Weiss second by Larson to advance questions 40 and 41 striking question 42 (these numbers are off the designated worksheet). Motion carried.</p> <p>DLC: (580417). Support for climate change science. This resolution was already past earlier subject to wording this is a two-part question as follows:</p> <p>A. the WCC take a position and encourage legislators and DNR to support science and market-based legislation and rules to reduce the risk of global warming and increase the use of renewable energy resources? Motion by Riggle second by Larson to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>B. would you support water basin management plans to reduce and control runoff as partial mitigation for damage that has already or will occur? Motion by Larson second by Riggle to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>Bear Committee:</p> <p>(020217). Allow the transfer of bear tags to Wisconsin senior hunters (more than 70 years old). The author was in attendance to support his resolution motion by Lobner second by Weir to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>Wolf Committee:</p> <p>(620217). Wolf application date change. It was suggested that a short explanation on the time line be added. Motion by Gunderson second Maas to advance. Motion carried.</p>	
ACTION	As stated.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

1. YCC Oversight Committee (report)

Kevin Smaybe

DISCUSSION	Kevin Smaby gave the committee report: (see Congress website under meeting minutes).	
ACTION	Motion by Gunderson second by Rogers approve report. Motion carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

2. Technology Committee (report)

KRYSTAL WESTFAHL

DISCUSSION	Crystal Westfahl gave her committee report and explained a 21 page handout she provided the DLC. Some of the highlights are as follows:	
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	<p>Some of the major players in social media are Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Social networks-connect with people media sharing networks-share photos videos and other media discussion forums-share news and ideas.</p> <p>She explained the use of Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Giving examples of the type of impact each have on the readers and the benefits for the producers.</p> <p>Facebook remains the most popular social media platform 79% of Internet users (68% of all US adults) use Facebook. She mentioned that in a recent post on the WCC Facebook page pertaining to CWD we received 2827 people. We also have 1005 likes of the page, beauty of this is you can positively count how many people look at when you post.</p> <p>She gave some statistics on the number of teens that are on some of the networks Instagram is favored by the younger generation and 56% of the teens are on several times a day.</p> <p>She identified goals and guidelines for using social media in the future for the WCC. Social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. We would use these three as a starting point until we get our feet under us. We need to put together a schedule for posting articles and original content. And define who, what and when these posted articles would be done.</p> <p>She pointed out the need to identify goals and guidelines for using social media platforms. These guides would include the following: must follow WCC guidelines.</p> <p>Restrictions for public comment and debate.</p> <p>Confirming source information.</p> <p>Sharing without opinion.</p> <p>Create a template for tracking problems and possible blocking of participants.</p> <p>No debating on social media sites.</p> <p>Create pool of administrators so we continue utilizing the platforms to the best of our ability.</p> <p>Identify administrators for each platform. The leadership Council holds usernames and passwords, someone from leadership should always be an administrator to keep checks and balances.</p> <p>Identify guidelines:</p> <p>If problems arise we will warn the party that they are not conducting themselves in a manner that is agreeable with the platform. Second offense they would be blocked from posting to our page. Legal review of rules and guidelines to be posted on the platform.</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <p>Facebook administrators: John Rennpferd, Joel Taylor, Crystal Westfahl, Larry Bonde, Stash Gruszynski.</p> <p>Twitter administrators: Justin Loehrke and Paul Reith.</p> <p>Instagram administrators: Steph Blazich and John Rennpferd.</p> <p>Google docs: Daniel Heidel and John Rennpferd.</p> <p>Larry thanked Crystal and committee for all the hard work they put into this process and is encouraged by the results.</p>	
ACTION	Information only no action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

3. Migratory Committee (report and postponed question)

Al Shook

DISCUSSION	Chairman Shook stated that there was some question at the last DLC meeting referencing resolution 490216 (Early Teal Season) this proposed resolution would hurt migratory hunters and is not really an option by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. He urged rejection of the motion.	
ACTION	Motion by Shook second by Olson to reject (490216). Motion carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

4. Warm Water Committee (report and postponed questions)

Joe Weiss

DISCUSSION	Joe Weiss gave the Committee report: (see Congress website under meeting minutes).	
ACTION	<p>Motion by Gunderson second by Lobner to accept report. Motion carried.</p> <p>The DLC then took the following actions on the remainder of the Warm Water Committees resolutions:</p> <p>(200217) Restrict the use of underwater cameras for Sturgeon spearing. Motion by Heisey second by Gunderson to advance. Motion failed. Resolution rejected.</p> <p>(270117) Add the Black River to the priority list of Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Waters. Motion by Weir second by Budnick to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>(390517) Northern Pike size limit reduction on Turtle Lake, Marquette County. Motion by Maas second by Smaby to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>(20117, 420217) Northern Pike Regulations on Lake Tomah, Monroe County. Motion by Taylor second by Rogers to reject. Carried. Both questions rejected. Discussion on reason for rejection: the Pike team is developing additional tools for the toolbox that is likely the reason for the slot size option in the second question. In the first question referencing changing the size limit from 32 inches to 40 fisheries management does not understand how a 40 inch minimum size limit will help</p>	

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	the fishery if Pike aren't even reaching 32 inches under the current regulations. (580217) Quality Panfish Management for the Chippewa Flowage, Sawyer County. Motion by Weiss second by Smaby to advance. Motion carried. (640317) Changes to Northern Wisconsin's musky season. Motion by Budnick second by Weir to advance. Carried. (640617) Raise the minimum size limit for musky to 50 inches on White Sand Lake, Vilas County. Motion by Weiss second by Weir to advance. Motion carried. (640717) Raise the minimum size limit for musky to 50 inches on the Cisco Chain of Lakes (includes Big Mamie, and West Bay Lakes), Vilas County. Motion by Maas second by Weiss to advance. Motion carried. (670217) Northern Pike Slot Size Limit for Big Cedar Lake, Washington County. Motion by Rogers second by Weir to reject. Motion carried. Reason for rejection is the Pike team is working on the issue. (700217) Remove size limit for Northern Pike on West Branch White River Flowage/Lake, Waushara County. Motion by Riggle second by Rogers to reject. Motion carried. Reason for rejection is the Pike team is working on the issue. (700317) Reduce the combined daily panfish bag limit on Long Lake, Waushara County. Motion by Weiss second by Olson to advance. Motion carried. Note: regulation would not be changed until panfish study is complete.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

5. Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee (report and postponed questions)

Kevin Smaby

DISCUSSION	Kevin Smaby gave the committee report: (see Congress website under meeting minutes).
ACTION	Motion by Maas second by Gunderson to approve the report. Motion carried. The DLC then took the following actions on the remainder of the Outdoor Heritage and Education Committees resolutions: (Committee Question) Change seasoned limits for Youth Turkey Tags. Motion by Shook second by Larson to advance. Motion carried. (Committee Question) Create Novice Hunt (Deer/Turkey). Motion by Shook second by Krueger to advance. Motion failed. Question rejected. Reason for rejection, we already have too many special hunts and this is no different than a mentor hunt other than giving it a special season. (501217) Create lifetime hunting and fishing license. Motion by Taylor second by Riggle to advance with the following amendment: change the wording to study only and that the Congress is asking the Legislature to direct the DNR to conduct a feasibility study. Motion carried. (610117). Create a "last chance" outdoor opportunity. Motion by Gunderson second by Bruning to advance. Motion carried. (350117). Create a youth bear hunt. Motion by Smaby second by Risley to advance. Motion failed. Resolution rejected. Reason: the Bear Hunting community is not in favor of this, they feel that there are enough youth opportunities and extending the season into the Labor Day weekend not a viable option.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

6. Great Lakes Committee (report and postponed questions)

Dale Maas

DISCUSSION	Dale Maas gave the Committee report: (see Congress website under meeting minutes).
ACTION	There is a motion by Shook second by Taylor to accept the report. Motion carried. The DLC then took the following actions on the remainder of the Great Lakes Committees resolutions: (040317). Allow the unrestricted harvest of White Perch on Lake Superior waters. Motion by Maas second by Haase to advance. And carried. (Committee Resolution ref. #20&21). Brown Trout stocking levels in Lake Michigan. Motion by Maas second by Haase to advance both questions. Motion failed. Resolution 20 and 21 rejected. Reason the department stated it wasn't a priority and scarce resources require allocation to other areas. The Seeforellen has been determined to be a hearty strain.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

7. Deer and Elk Committee Report (postponed question)

Mike Rogers

DISCUSSION	There was one question that due to time constraints at the October DLC meeting no action was taken and another that is being brought back for reconsideration see below.
ACTION	(580117). Issuance of Forest damage permits in counties having an increase or maintained population objective. Motion by Taylor second by Olson to reject. Motion carried. Reason: there was much tinkering with the explanation prior to the question based on vague, open to interpretation and no legal regulatory role for County CDAC's. New policy that was approved October 2017 already requires that the department received feedback from stakeholder groups including CDAC's. Consultation language and Forest damage permit issuance policy reads as follows: the DNR wildlife damage specialist and/or wildlife management staff will notify the County CDAC chair, Conservation Congress County chair, statewide Conservation Congress Leadership, and Tribal Interests (if request is within the ceded territory). If applicable, stakeholder feedback from these groups and feedback received from the general public may be used to make modifications to the permit conditions.

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	Resolution (680117). Equitable harvest rate (weapon type). Motion by Krieger second by Riggle to bring back for consideration. Motion carried. It was suggested that the Executive Committee be assigned to work on the wording for this resolution and take action at its next Executive Committee Meeting. Motion by Krueger second by Riggle to authorize the Executive Committee to construct wording for this resolution. Motion carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

8. Land Use Committee (report)

Joel Taylor

DISCUSSION	Joel Taylor gave the land use committee report: (see Congress website under meeting minutes).
ACTION	Motion by Shook second by Gunderson to approve. Motion carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

9. Turkey and Upland Committee (report and postponed questions)

Ken Risley

DISCUSSION	Ken Risley gave the Committee report: (see Congress website under meeting minutes).
ACTION	Motion by Shook second by Krueger to approve report. Motion carried. The DLC then took the following actions on the remaining Question. (Committee Question requires legislation). Extending Wisconsin pheasant season until January 31. Motion by Shook second by Krueger to reject. Motion carried. Reason: recent legislation was just past which extended the pheasant season from December 31 to the Sunday nearest January 6th to be consistent with other seasons such As Archery Deer and fall Turkey this legislation was pending back in September but has since been passed.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

10. Motorized Recreation Vehical Ad Hoc Committee (report)

Dave Larson

DISCUSSION	Dave Larson gave the motorized recreation vehicle committee report: (see Congress website under meeting minutes).
ACTION	Motion by Olson second by Weiss to approve. Motion carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

11. Environmental Committee (report and questions)

Ron Krueger Sr.

DISCUSSION	Ron Krueger gave the environmental Committee report: (see Congress website under meeting minutes).
ACTION	Motion by Rogers second by Riggle to accept report. Motion carried. The DLC then took the following actions on the remaining Questions: (490117, 630517, 720617). DNR conduct public hearings and full EIS of Enbridge pipeline 61.. Motion by Rogers second by Breunig to reject. Motion carried. Reason: this falls under the Public Service Commission's jurisdiction. (090317, 130667, 130717, 160217, 80117, 290117, 320217, 390117, 410617, 420417, 440217, 5417, 580517) Preserve the intent of 1997 Wisconsin Act 171, The Mining Moratorium Law. Motion by Shook second by Taylor to reject carried resolution rejected reason: mute point, Gov. Walker signed a bill on 12/11/17 lifting the moratorium. (380117) Sulfide Mining along the Boundary Waters of Wisconsin. Motion by Taylor second by Rogers to reject carried resolution rejected reason: we have no jurisdiction this is state of Michigan property.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

12. Shooting Range Ad Hoc Committee (report)

Harold Drake

DISCUSSION	Harold gave the Range Committee report that was conducted on October 3 via a conference call. There were 4 suggested action items (see below).
ACTION	A. A Committee motion was made to ask the District Leadership Council to add a presentation on the Scholastic Clay Target Program as an agenda item at the 2018 State Convention. Motion by Maas second by Gunderson to support. Motion carried. B. A Committee motion was made to provide a copy of the current State wide range listing for review at the Spring District Meetings. Motion by Larson second by Haase that a copy be included in the agenda packet for District Meetings in hopes that on a county by county basis updates will be made that would further help this program. Motion carried. C. Lead management and reclamation is a major issue of concern for all ranges. Information is available online through various publications slightly use source of information E.P.A. Best Management Practices booklet. A motion was made by the committee to have information distributed at the Spring District Meetings which would provide them with current

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<p>available online sources.</p> <p>Motion by Taylor second by Gunderson that this information be provided at the Spring District meeting. Motion carried.</p> <p>D. A motion was made by the committee to support a survey to be used as a tool for directing the committee and by providing future agenda items and information sharing with the department on delegates concerns about current range status for possible reading issues. A sample survey was provided to the DLC and Harold has agreed to spearhead the effort if there is support for the idea.</p> <p>Motion by Gunderson second by Ellingson to advance. Motion carried. (Discussion was offered about the possibility of an online survey that needed to be further investigated).</p>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

13. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee (report)

Doug Burrows

DISCUSSION	Doug Burrows gave the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee meeting report, contained in the plan were 4 suggested action items. (See action items below)
ACTION	<p>A. Recommend to the WCC District Leadership Council that WCC District Meetings serve as a format for education, training, follow-up, and tracking of resolutions that have been advanced for further consideration true actions by the WCC committees.</p> <p>It was noted that a new spreadsheet program is being tested by the department that will allow tracking of the resolutions. It was felt that rather than take action on this item at this time we would wait and see if the new program would do the same job. Information only no action taken.</p> <p>B. Recommend to WCC District Leadership Council that discussion of WCC educational material, including the previously produced flyer and video be presented as a standing agenda item at future district meetings.</p> <p>Motion by a Heisey, second by Taylor to approve.</p> <p>C. Recommend to the WCC District Leadership Council that the membership of any future Strategic Planning Committee include 2 representatives from the WCC Executive Committee.</p> <p>Motion by Weiss second by Smaby to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>D. Recommend to the District Leadership Council that a standing Strategic Planning Committee be structured and authorized so it continues its work past 2018.</p> <p>Motion by Maas second by Larson to advance. Motion carried.</p>
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

14. Outreach and Public Relations Committee (report)

Bob Haase

DISCUSSION	<p>Bob Haase gave the outreach and public relations committee report.(see Congress website under meeting minutes).</p> <p>He also distributed results of a survey on possible action items that were discussed at the meeting. There were 16 possible projects and after going through the exercise they were all ranked according to preference. He reviewed the topics with the DLC and stated that the first 10 he felt were actionable items but that the committee would primarily look at the first five. Those five topics are as follows: expand the use of social media for communications, better educate the public about the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, improve communications with youth, develop guidelines and suggestions of how to communicate with legislators and improve communications on positions of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress on issues of resolutions. DLC thanked Bob and his committee for the effort put into this.</p>
ACTION	Motion by Maas second by Lobner to approve report. Motion carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

15. Legislative Committee (report and questions)

Scott Gunderson

DISCUSSION	Scott Gunderson and legislative committee report: (see Congress website for meeting minutes).
ACTION	<p>Motion by Gunderson second by Olson to approve. Motion carried. The DLC then took the following actions on the remaining questions:</p> <p>(Committee Question) Allow the use of large-caliber dramatic rifles and bows for hunting large game. Motion by Krueger second by Haase to reject. Motion failed. Motion by Breunig second by Larson to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>(Committee Question). Re-implement back tags for deer hunting. Motion by Shook second by Larson to reject. Motion carried. Reason: the NRB will not take action on this.</p> <p>(120317). Amend state statute 192.32 (1) regarding the crossing of railroad tracks. Motion by Shook second by Maas to reject. Motion carried. Reason: the Wisconsin Conservation Congress already has a position of support.</p> <p>(640417) Increase Guide License fees. Motion by Smaby second by Riggle to advance if amended to \$250. Motion carried.</p> <p>(080117, 330117). Permit fees for non-motorized watercraft. Note: this is a four-part question and will be handled</p>

	<p>individually asking if you favor the following:</p> <p>Question 1. Anyone who purchase a hunting, trapping or fishing license would receive 1 non-motorized watercraft permit at no charge. Motion by Breunig second by Smaby to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>Question 2. Individuals who carry an active hunting, trapping or fishing license would not require a permit while using a non-motorized watercraft. Motion by Weiss second by Riggle to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>Question 3. All non-motorized watercraft should be registered. Motion by Larson second by Rogers to advance. Motion carried.</p> <p>Question 4. Create a group rate for organizations with multiple non-motorized watercraft motion by Riggle second by Weiss to advance. Motion carried.</p>
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

16. Bear Committee (report and questions)

Mike Rogers

DISCUSSION	Mike Rogers gave the bear committee report (see Congress website for meeting minutes).
ACTION	Motion by Maas second by Shook approve. Motion carried. The DLC then proceeded to take action on the remaining committee questions. (020117). Black bear hunting dates. Motion by Olson second by Lobner to reject. Motion carried. Reason: not rule simplification.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

17. Wolf Committee (report and questions)

Mike Riggle

DISCUSSION	Mike Riggle gave the Wolf committee report. (see Congress website for meeting minutes).
ACTION	Motion by Maas second by Weiss to approve. Motion carried. Note: questions handled earlier.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

E. Online Voting Exploratory Committee report

Paul Reith

DISCUSSION	Paul Reith reviewed a 14 page report with 16 more pages of appendices drafted by the Online Voting Exploratory Committee. After much discussion it was decided that further investigation and fact-finding needed to be made.
ACTION	Motion by Riggle second by Olson to continue exploring all options. Motion carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

F. Discussion on advisory committee co-chairs

Bonde

DISCUSSION	Larry stated after reviewing the comments of his position of having advisory committee co-chairs that he was going back to having a Chairman and Vice Chairman. He stated it was a debate but that he would be reviewing carefully future committee Chair people and Vice Chairs.
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

G. AB 712 Discussion and possible position

Bonde

DISCUSSION	DLC was given information on AB 712 related to enforcement of federal and state laws relating to the management of the Wolf population and to the killing of rules and expenditure of funds for Wolf management purposes. This bill if passed would prohibit the Wisconsin DNR from expending funds in support of Wolf management up to and until the Wisconsin DNR has authority to control their population.
ACTION	Motion by Maas second by Lobner to support AB 712. Motion carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Dave Larson asked that the DLC make the nonmotorized vehicle committee a standing committee.</p> <p>Dave Breunig question conflict dates between CDAC's and district meeting dates.</p> <p>Mike Rogers stated that we need to find more young members for Conservation Leadership Committee.</p>
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	<p>Ron Krueger thanked Kari and Mike for the work that they do for the Congress.</p> <p>Kevin Smaby commented that the hook and bullet attitude does not go well with environmental people in attendance at meetings, it gives them ammunition to be anti-.</p> <p>Steve Budnick commented that Vilas wanted to split their DMU at the CDAC committee but that the DNR refused to change, he feels this will cause CDAC's to function poorly and lose whatever momentum and trust they currently have.</p> <p>Mike Riggle commented that a consent agenda could streamline district meetings, he was also disappointed when an outbreak of West Nile virus was reported and the Wisconsin DNR blew off the issue, this resulted in a crash of the Grouse population.</p> <p>Scott Gunderson thanked all the delegates and department staff for their commitment to the resources of the state. He also mentioned the STPT was the fastest-growing shooting sport in the nation and encourage everyone to become familiar with it it's a great tool to bring high school age students into the shooting sports.</p> <p>Dale Maas mentioned that he was again disappointed with the job of some of the liaisons to the various committees. Many of the questions that were reviewed by committees either had previous actions taken or as we can see from the rewritten comments on the site postings it's fairly obvious that whoever is in attendance representing the department is not well-versed in what's going on.</p> <p>Al Shook said it's been a pleasure serving as vice chair and very busy with many many trips to Madison representing the Congress anything everyone for that opportunity.</p> <p>Larry Bonde thanked the leadership and members of the executive committee for helping out in testifying on many bills in Madison it is appreciated he also stated that next year he will stop bringing resolution authors to the DLC meeting. That discussion must take place at the committee meetings if there is going to be any compromises or changes made bringing the authors to the DLC meetings does nothing but drag out our meetings to hear much of the same discussion.</p>
ACTION	Motion by Shook second by Larson to adjourn. Motion carried meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM 1/6/18.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	10:35 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Dale C Maas
DATE	01/29/2018